December 2025
Issue 1

Are you passionate about art & community? Welcome to:

ROOTS

a free zine project based in Madison, Wisconsin

Our purpose?—to raise awareness, lift spirits, & elevate voices in a time of chaos & confusion.

created by people, for people

connect • community • care
contribute • create

DEAR READER,

December is upon us. Wintertime in Wisconsin is beautiful—the snow glittering in the moonlight, the frosted prairies, the frozen lakes, & the icicles dripping from trees have always felt magical to me. Snowy owls have even been spotted in the area, which is rare (they usually prefer colder habitats up North). While breathtaking, this is an indicator to expect a particularly unforgiving season. Temperatures are already plummeting below freezing as winter storms ice the streets, putting to risk our neighbors without heat and without housing. Now more than ever, it's integral that we keep each other safe.

Love,
Your friends & neighbors at ROOTS.

WISCONSIN IN WINTER

Juniper: an evergreen shrub with blue-black berries that, once dried, can be ground to flavor food & drinks. Delicious in tea with honey!

SUSTAINABLE GIFTS

The holiday season produces 25% more waste in the US than any other time of year. Consider making your holidays more sustainable by shopping for local/handmade goods rather than mass-produced. Look for gift wrap made of 100% paper—many gift wraps have a plastic coating that can't be recycled.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

- Drive slowly on snow and ice, especially in light cars or without snow tires. Brake ahead of time.
- Do NOT slam your brakes on ice.
- Keep road salt/cat litter to weigh down lighter vehicles & to provide traction if your car ends up stuck in snow, ice, a ditch, etc.
- Keep extra blankets, jackets, & flannels in your car—they can also provide grip for tires if your car is stuck. BONUS: you have warm layers at hand for emergencies or to offer if someone is in need.
- Try to keep at least 1/4 of a tank of gas in your vehicle at all times to keep the gas (& you!) from freezing.
- Clean your vehicle of snow and ice before you drive. Keep a shovel, snow brush, & ice scraper in the car.
- Keep your tires full & check your tread. Bald tires fare poorly on ice.
- Consider taking your city bus.

ELEVATING VOICES

Madison City Council recently voted to demolish a homeless encampment on Dairy Drive. 29 tiny homes were evicted, leaving many of its former residents without shelter, safety, or resources. The Dane County Homeless Justice Initiative is collecting donations to protect our neighbors. More information and resources are available on Instagram @danecountyhomeless.

RESOURCES

Dane County Department of Human Services
Friends of the State Street Family
The Sunshine Place (Sun Prairie)
Madison Tenant Resource Center
Madison Tenant Power
Public Libraries

rootszine.carrd.co/#housing
or scan the QR code on the back cover

ACTION!

DONATION REQUESTS
BLANKETS & SLEEPING BAGS
TENTS & TARPS
WARM CLOTHING
SOCKS & UNDERWEAR
FIRST AID SUPPLIES
WATER & NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
HAND- & FOOTWARMERS
PROPANE CANISTERS
MR. BUDDY HEATERS
HEATED VESTS

Donations are currently collected at Room of One's Own. For updated donation information, visit @houselessdefensecoalition on Instagram.

EVENTS

Madison's Fair Trade Holiday Festival • 12/6 @ 8am-3pm, Monona Terrace
Queer & Trans Open Mic • 12/17 @ 7pm, Room of One's Own
The Big Gay Holiday Market • 12/19 @ 5-10pm & 12/20 @ 10am-5pm, Alliant Energy Center